

HOUSE RESOLUTION 203

By Harmon

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame inductees of 2012.

WHEREAS, the Tennessee General Assembly is pleased to specially honor and commend those citizens and educators who, through their unwavering dedication and unflagging commitment to excellence, have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the eight 2012 Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association (TSSAA) Hall of Fame inductees are such noteworthy individuals who have devoted their lives to the education and instruction of young students and athletes; and

WHEREAS, organized in 1925, the TSSAA is a voluntary, nonprofit, self-supported organization, conceived by teachers, principals, and superintendents and administered by carefully chosen individuals; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Association is to stimulate and regulate the athletic relations of the secondary schools in Tennessee, coordinating athletic and scholastic programs and promoting the development of character, integrity, sportsmanship, and teamwork; and

WHEREAS, with 347 schools in its membership, the TSSAA sponsors men's and women's basketball, track, tennis, volleyball, cross country, soccer, and golf, as well as football, wrestling, baseball, and softball; and

WHEREAS, the eight people inducted into the 2012 TSSAA Hall of Fame include two administrators, two coaches, two officials, and two contributors; and

WHEREAS, these honorable individuals are: Dr. James Armstrong, Dick Henley, Charles Mitchell, Jerry Pearson, Butch Campbell, Leon Rash, and Sam and Nelda Kerr; and

WHEREAS, a coach and administrator for nearly forty years, Dr. James Armstrong worked as principal and assistant principal in a number of local middle and high schools, started the baseball program at Pearl High School in Nashville, where he coached football and basketball for ten years, served on the TSSAA Board of Control for three years, and taught numerous courses at Tennessee State University and Trevecca until his well-earned retirement in 1998; and

WHEREAS, as an administrator and football coach, Dick Henley has devoted the last twenty-five years of his career to the Tennessee School for the Deaf (TSD), serving as the President of the Educational Association, overseeing numerous events and tournaments at the school, including a pre-season tournament every year with other area schools for the deaf, and volunteering with the school's annual Run for the Deaf event. A 1967 national championship winner with TSD, Coach Henley's football team recently won their own championship when they were named Deaf Digest 2011 Team of the Year in eight-man football; and

WHEREAS, in his thirty years at Pickett County High School, Charles Mitchell coached the girls' and boys' basketball teams to six regional championships, six sub-state contests, five trips to the TSSAA State Tournament, and two state championships. A highly respected educator, Coach Mitchell served four four-year terms as the Superintendent of Pickett County Schools until his retirement in 1999; and

WHEREAS, Jerry Pearson coached football for over forty-five years in Robertson and Dickson County Schools, during which time he amassed over 200 career victories and the 1988 State Championship in Class AAA with his Dickson County squad; and

WHEREAS, enjoying over thirty years as a TSSAA football and basketball official, Butch Campbell has officiated countless postseason tournaments and games with poise and sound judgement, including the 1995 Clinic Bowl at Vanderbilt. He also served as the Supervisor of Officials in the North Central Association for three years, the clock operator at the TSSAA state Basketball tournaments for thirty-five years, and as a teacher and principal for over forty years in Murfreesboro, where he was a dutiful member of the school board; and

WHEREAS, Leon Rash, a TSSAA basketball official for over forty years, has contributed his expertise to numerous postseason games, including district, region, and three TSSAA state

tournaments, while also serving as a Supervisor and Assigning Officer for the Southeast Tennessee Basketball Officials Association and a TSSAA Officials' Camp Director. In recognition of his contributions to teaching and his promotion of citizenship and sportsmanship in high school athletics, he has twice received an A.F. Bridges Official of the Year Award; and

WHEREAS, ambassadors to the TSSAA and to high school sports in Tennessee, both Sam and Nelda Kerr have graciously devoted their time and energy to various TSSAA championship events over the years and launched the first TSSAA merchandising program. Sam Kerr has also served as a football, basketball, track and field, and softball official and as an umpire in the first state softball championships. For several years, Nelda Kerr acted as Director of the Live National Anthem performances and the half-time entertainment for TSSAA state basketball; and

WHEREAS, these eight individuals are men and women of true character and commitment, exemplifying the type of selfless community servants and civic leaders whom fellow Tennesseans admire for their tireless efforts in molding the State's youth, guiding them with solid principles and high standards in every aspect of their lives; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby join with the family, friends, and colleagues of these eight distinguished individuals in celebrating their induction into the Tennessee Secondary School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, commending them on their substantial legacy as teachers, administrators, coaches, officials, and contributors, and honoring their steadfast dedication to all Tennessee student-athletes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.